

# Abington Township Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

<b>Chapter:</b>	Law Enforcement Role and Authority	<b>General Order:</b>	1.3.4
<b>Section:</b>	Use of Force	<b>Original Date:</b>	050104
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<b>Replaces:</b>	All Previous General Orders Relative to Subject		
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<b>CALEA Standard References:</b>	1.3.4		
<b>Pennsylvania Accreditation References:</b>	1.3.4		

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is to provide members with guidelines on the use of authorized less lethal weapons by sworn members.

## II. POLICY

See General Order: 1.3.1 - Policy Statement

## III. PROCEDURE:

### A. Parameters for use of non-deadly force:

1. Where deadly force is not authorized, officers shall use only that level of force on the force continuum that is reasonably necessary to de-escalate the incident and bring it under control.
2. Abington Police officers are only authorized to use department approved less lethal force techniques and issued equipment for resolution of incidents as follows:
  - a. To protect themselves or another from physical harm;
  - b. To restrain or subdue a resistant individual; or
  - c. To bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.

### B. Force Continuum

1. Police Department members shall use only the minimum amount of force which is necessary and reasonable to control the situation, effect an arrest, overcome resistance to arrest, or defend themselves or others from harm.
  - a. When the use of force is necessary, the degree of force that is employed should be in direct relationship to the amount of resistance employed by the person or the immediate threat the person poses to the member or others.
  - b. The use of force by members of the department will, whenever possible, be progressive in nature. This force may be in the form of advice, warnings, persuasion, verbal encounters, physical contact, use of baton or other less lethal weapons, or the use of deadly force.
  - c. Sworn members must weigh the circumstances of each individual case and employ only that amount of force which is necessary and reasonable to control the situation or persons. No member will use unreasonable or excessive force toward any person.
  
2. The Force Continuum is a logical progression through the stages of force. The continuum shows the levels of force available to police officers during an arrest situation. It is further divided with various levels of actions, and assists us in analyzing the force used. The force continuum is as follows;
  - a. Officer Presence  
Definition: Identification of authority
  
  - b. Verbal Direction  
Definition: Commands of direction or arrest
  
  - c. Restraint and Control
    - (1) Soft Empty Hand Control  
Definition: Control Techniques that have a minimal probability of injury
  
    - (2) OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) Chemical Aerosol and Electronic Control Devices

OC Definition: An organic agent that is inflammatory. Causes localized topical heat, redness, inflammation and pain to all exposed skin and tissues. Effective time 2 to 3/4 hour. Usually does not require medical attention.

Electronic Control Device Definition: Weapon designed to disrupt a subject=s central nervous system by means of deploying battery powered electrical energy sufficient to cause uncontrolled muscle contractions and override an individual=s voluntary motor

(3) CS/CN Chemical Agents (When Authorized)

CS (Orthochlorbenzalmalonitrile) Definition: A synthetic chemical agent that causes irritation to exposed tissue and skin. Effective time 2 to 3/4 hour. May require medical attention.

CN (Chloroacetophenone) Definition: A synthetic chemical agent. Causes specific action on the lachrymal glands of the eye, which produces a profuse flow of tears. Effective time 2 to 3/4 hour. May require medical attention.

(4) Hard Empty Hand Control

Definition: Control Techniques that have a high probability of injury

d. Intermediate Force

(1) Impact Weapon

Definition: Blunt tool used to strike or restrain.

(2) Extended Range Impact Devices

Definition: Were developed to give police a less-than-lethal option to use against crowds, violent suspects not armed with firearms, mentally disturbed person exhibiting aggression, and to support tactical operations

e. Deadly Force

- (1) Definition: Force which, under the circumstances in which it is used, is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.